

Contents

Revision History	2
Introduction.....	2
Changes to the Handbooks Location	3
Upgrading Using SOLUS	3
Backing up SIMS and FMS	3
Permissions	3
SLG Compatability.....	4
Included in this Release.....	4
Assessment 7	5
Attendance 7.....	5
Cover 7	6
Course Manager	6
CTF.....	6
SIMS Database Management Utility	7
Document Management Server	7
Examinations Organiser 6.67	7
Lesson Monitor 7.....	8
Personnel 7.114	8
Personnel 7 CCS_Base_Lookups	8
PLASC Return 2009	8
Profiles 7.114.....	9
School Census Spring Return 2009	9
SIMS Learning Gateway 1 and SIMS Learning Gateway 2	10
STAR 7.114	10
Updated Handbooks Available with this Release.....	11

Please read this release note carefully before installing or upgrading your software. Do not attempt any installation or upgrade without first making a fully restorable, verified backup of your SIMS system.

Revision History

Version	Change Description	Date
1.0	Initial Release	08/01/09

Introduction

The SIMS 2008 December Update contains updates to Personnel 7, PLASC 2009, Profiles 7, School Census Spring 2009 and STAR.



It is recommended that the SIMS 2008 December Update is applied to existing installations by running SOLUS on the SIMS SQL Server. If you apply this upgrade by running SOLUS on a SIMS client and have not already applied the SIMS 2008 August Main Release on the server, the Attendance archive functionality will not be available. To enable this functionality, you will need to complete this upgrade by running SIMSSQLApplicationSetup.exe on the server. This file can be found in the C:\SIMS\Setups folder (where C: indicates the location of the SIMS File Server).

Where to Find More Information

Release notes for previous releases can be obtained by clicking the appropriate menu link on the Home page of our SOLUS website (<http://www.capitaes.co.uk/solus>).

All handbooks referred to throughout this release note can be obtained from any of the following locations:

- SupportNet – copies of all handbooks are posted to SupportNet (<http://support.capitaes.co.uk>) and can be obtained by clicking the **Documentation** button on the Home page, then selecting **SIMS Handbooks** from the **Category** drop-down list and clicking the **Search** button.
- Copies of handbooks are now installed on the Central SIMS File server as PDFs and can be found in the S:\SIMS\Documentation folder (where S: indicates the location of your SIMS server). Double-click the required PDF name to open the handbook.

If you are unable to obtain the required handbook using any of these methods, please email publications@capita.co.uk and we will be pleased to email a copy to you.



IMPORTANT NOTE: Capita Children's Services has made this document available in both Microsoft Word (available from SupportNet) and PDF format to enable Local Authorities to edit the information supplied herein. Capita Children's Services cannot be held responsible for any changes, errors or omissions resulting from the subsequent editing of this supplied document.

Changes to the Handbooks Location

To improve the speed of your upgrade and to reduce the amount of disk space used by SIMS on a workstation, handbooks are delivered by SIMSCentralSetup.exe to the SIMS File Server (S:\SIMS\Documentation). This change in deployment was introduced in the SIMS 2008 August Main Release.



NOTE: Handbooks copied to your workstation prior to the SIMS 2008 August Main Release are still present in the C:\Program Files\SIMS\SIMS .net folder. All current help files are still stored in C:\Program Files\SIMS\SIMS .net and are unaffected by this change in deployment.

Upgrading Using SOLUS

The SIMS Online Update Service (SOLUS) enables you to download and run SIMS releases and patches via the internet. This is achieved using the SOLUS 2 Wizard.

For instructions on carrying out an upgrade, please refer to the *SIMS SOLUS Wizard 2 User Guide*, which is available from the SOLUS website (<http://www.capitaes.co.uk/solus>).

Backing up SIMS and FMS

Where Personnel in SIMS is used to generate Salary Projections in FMS, SIMS and FMS backups should be carried out at the same time. If one of the databases needs to be restored, the other database must be restored to the same point, i.e. if you restore your SIMS database, you must restore your FMS database to the same point and vice versa.

Permissions

A permissions spreadsheet listing all permissions relating to SIMS 7.114 can be accessed from our SupportNet website (<http://support.capitaes.co.uk>). Enter **PERMLIST** in the **Site Search** field then click the **Go** button.

SLG Compatability

SLG2 is only guaranteed to support the previous two main releases of SIMS inclusive of any main release it is shipped with (and any update releases in between).

Supported SIMS Versions with SLG2 December Update

SIMS Learning Gateway 2 is available to use with the following versions of SIMS:

- SIMS 2008 December Update (SIMS 7.114)
- **SIMS 2008 November Main Release (SIMS 7.112)**
- SIMS 2008 September Update (SIMS 7.110)
- **SIMS 2008 August Main Release (SIMS 7.108)**

However, if you install the SIMS 2008 December Update Release (SIMS 7.114) and continue to run an older release of SLG2, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

Included in this Release

This release includes fixes and enhancements in the following areas:

- Assessment 7
- Attendance 7
- Cover 7
- Course Manager
- CTF
- Document Management Server
- Examinations Organiser 6.67
- Fees Billing
- Lesson Monitor 7
- Personnel 7.114
- Personnel 7 CCS_Base_Lookups
- PLASC Return 2009
- Profiles 7.114
- School Census Spring Return 2009
- SIMS Database Management
- SIMS Learning Gateway 1 and 2
- STAR 7.114

Assessment 7

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements and fixes in the following areas:

- You can now search for a marksheet by an owner who is also a Head of Year (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- User Defined Groups are now available for selection in the marksheet filter (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- It is now possible to save the rename of a marksheet in the **Favourites** panel.
- You can now select multiple result sets when adding columns for data review via **Focus | Assessment | Template**.
- Improvements have been made to the page layout when printing marksheets via **Tools | Assessment Tools | System Utilities | Marksheets**.
- The Wizard Manager now works correctly (via **Tools | Assessment Tools | Wizard Manager**).

Attendance 7

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements and fixes in the following areas:

- Accepted applicants now appear on the **Edit Marks** page when **Include accepted applicants** is selected (via **Focus | Attendance | Edit Marks**).
- Results are now available when selecting **Less than** in the **Letter Options** panel (via **Reports | Attendance | Letters | Print Letters**).
- When running a registration report by **Reg Group** (via **Reports | Attendance | Manual Entry | Print Registration Sheet**), the joint main supervisor is now displayed.

Cover 7

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements and fixes in the following areas:

- The **Cover Statistics** report now displays correctly (via **Tools | Cover | Statistics | Cover**).
- The class list now displays correctly for double periods on Cover Slips (via **Focus | School | Arrange Cover**).
- The **On Call Cover Rota (by Amount of Cover done)** now re-orders staff who are available for cover (via **Tools | Cover | Global Settings**).
- The **Absence Statistics** report now displays correctly (via **Tools | Cover | Statistics | Absence**).

Course Manager

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes an enhancement in the following area:

- The **Focus in Membership** panel in Course Manager has been moved from the bottom to the top of the list.

CTF

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements and fixes in the following areas:

- Duplicate pupil/students are no longer created when CTF records have a UPN that matches the UPN in the SIMS database but contains names that do not match.
- The CTF Import now works correctly when more than one pupil/student has Free School Meal information that does not include a review date.
- Some CTF files exported by schools using the Pearson Phoenix system contain assessment components that are not in line with CBDS. We cannot import data that is not CBDS compliant but we have modified our CTF import so that other information in such Pearson Phoenix CTF files can be imported.
- The Religion category is imported and exported rather than the school's local value. CTF now treats religion as it did prior to the SIMS November 2007 Main Release.

SIMS Database Management Utility

The following new command line parameters are available for dbAttach.exe:

- /master – backs up the master database from the command line (the user must be a SQL Server System Administrator in order to use this option).
- /dropsyslogins – removes the SIMS users from the SQL server (the user must be a SQL Server System Administrator in order to use this option).
- /dms – optional – if specified will also take a backup of the Document Management Server.

Document Management Server

When backing up the SIMS database using dbAttach, you can now include a backup of the DMS. In addition, when selecting a database, dbAttach checks whether the DMS is being backed up and provides the option to cancel a DMS backup that is running before proceeding.



NOTE: An upgrade must be installed onto the DMS to enable this new backup functionality. The upgrade installer includes an option for choosing the DMS backup folder (which must be specified by the user).

Examinations Organiser 6.67

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements and fixes in the following areas:

- The thirteenth character of a candidate's UCI number (check character) no longer changes to upper case (via **Tools | Allocate UCI & Exam Numbers**).
- The counting anomalies in the total of numbers allocated now work correctly (via **Tools | Allocate UCI & Exam Numbers**).
- A duplicate UCI is no longer created when a candidate is assigned an exam number and this number is withdrawn and then assigned to another candidate within the same academic year (via **Tools | Allocate UCI & Exam Numbers**).
- The performance of the **Seating Organiser** has been improved (via **Focus | Seating Organiser**).
- When adding an external candidate, the count number now works correctly (via **Tools | Allocate UCI & Exam Numbers**).

Lesson Monitor 7

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes an enhancement in the following areas:

- The **Official Register** report now displays five weeks on one page (via **Reports | Lesson Monitor | Whole Group Student Reports | Official Register Report**).
- When running a registration report by **Reg Group** (via **Reports | Lesson Monitor | Manual Entry | Print Registration Sheet**), the joint main supervisor is now displayed.

Personnel 7.114

New Features

This release includes the following new features:

- The **Individual Absence** report now has additional filters for **Sickness Only** and **Exclude Sickness** (via **Reports | Personnel | Individual Absence**).
- The reporting dictionary now includes Staff Absences where the Absence Notepad does not have any comments.
- It is now possible to receive updated contracts with new pay award values via B2B before the revised pay award is imported into Personnel 7.

Personnel 7 CCS_Base_Lookups

The CCS_Base_Lookups file includes new roles for the School Workforce Census (SWC) and the file JACS0808.zip.

PLASC Return 2009

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements in the following areas:

- SEN provisioning fields are now available via SIMS Reporting.
- The default position for Welsh Medium for classes in PLASC has been adjusted to take account of school type as well as the school's Welsh Medium.
- Flood fill has been added when entering the Welsh Baccalaureate.
- The **Focus in Membership** panel in Course Manager has been moved from the bottom to the top of the list.

Profiles 7.114

New Features

This release includes the following new feature:

- **Review of Pupil/Student Profile**

Focus | Profiles | Review Profiles

The **Profiles Checking** screen enables school management to review the profiles of all pupil/students for whom they have pastoral or academic ownership.

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements and fixes in the following areas:

- Previous academic year results are now being collected via **Focus | Profiles**.
- It is now possible to import a Comment Bank from a Microsoft Word file via **Focus | Profiles | Comment Banks**.

School Census Spring Return 2009

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements in the following areas:

- The Extended Service display has been lengthened to make it easier to differentiate between services.
- The **Free School Meal Detail** report no longer lists pupils who do not receive Free School Meals.
- The **Contact Detail** report displays the complete address in one cell, to make it easier to copy the table to other Microsoft Office applications, e.g. Microsoft Excel.
- The **Focus in Membership** panel in Course Manager has been moved from the bottom to the top of the list.
- The DCSF has provided a revised XSL file for fixes in the following areas:
 - **Validation Error 2500: Attendance** – Attendance information is not included for pupils below the statutory school age. Validation is now applied to students aged 15.
 - **Validation Error 1575: ULN** – The correct method for calculating the ULN check digit now occurs for all pupils who have been given legitimate ULNs.
 - **Summary Report Table P (Attendance)** – Absence summaries are now included in the table when attendance is reported at code level.

- **Summary Report Table Q (Governance)** – This table now only appears for VA and Fo.
- **Summary Report Table H (Free School Meals)** – The row for the number of pupils taking free school meals on the Census day is now displayed.
- **Summary Report Table B-I and N (Headings)** – The headings are now in line with the specification.
- **Summary Report Table J (SEN)** – A note is now displayed under the table.
- **Summary Report Table I (Funded Hours)** – The text now indicates that funded hours information is collected for all school types.



NOTE: If you decide not to upgrade to the December release, the XSL files are available as a download from SupportNet (Resource Number 14834).

SIMS Learning Gateway 1 and SIMS Learning Gateway 2

There is no updated to SIMS Learning Gateway 1 (SLG1). To make SLG1 compatible with the SIMS 2008 December Update, organisations that host a SIMS Learning Gateway service should follow the instructions for *Adding or Editing a Schema* in the *SIMS Learning Gateway for System Administrators (Hosting Organisations)* handbook, which is available from SupportNet (<http://support.capitaes.co.uk>).

For information on the new version of SIMS Learning Gateway 2, please refer to the release notes that will be made available from our SOLUS website (<http://www.capitaes.co.uk/solus>) on product release.

STAR 7.114

Enhancements and Fixes

This release includes enhancements in the following areas:

- Compatibility for 120 DPI setting on the login screen is now available for the visually impaired.
- The Meal Type lookup formerly available from the **Additional Information** panel on the **Pupil/Student Details** page, has been reinstated. This is intended as a temporary measure to allow schools to move pupil meal information into the new **Default Meal Pattern** table within the new **Dietary** panel or to set up a user defined field if using this look-up for other purposes.

Updated Handbooks Available with this Release

The following handbooks have been updated for this release. Please refer to the *What's New in This Release* section in each handbook for details of the specific changes.

- Backing up SIMS and FMS Databases
- Managing Pupil/Student Profiles in SIMS
- Producing the Spring PLASC 2009 Return Welsh Nursery
- Producing the Spring PLASC 2009 Return Welsh Primary
- Producing the Spring PLASC 2009 Return Welsh Secondary
- Producing the Spring PLASC 2009 Return Welsh Special
- Producing the Spring School Census 2009 English Nursery Schools
- Producing the Spring School Census 2009 English Primary/Middle deemed Primary Schools
- Producing the Spring School Census 2009 English Secondary/Middle deemed Secondary Schools
- Producing the Spring School Census 2009 English Special Schools
- SIMS Learning Gateway 2 for School Administrators
- SIMS Learning Gateway 2 for System Administrators